§948.10

§ 948.10 State regulatory program approval.

The West Virginia program, as submitted on March 3, 1980, as clarified on July 16, 1980, and as resubmitted on December 19, 1980, is conditionally approved, effective January 21, 1981, Beginning on that date and continuing until July 11, 1985, the Department of Natural Resources was deemed the regulatory authority in West Virginia for all surface coal mining and reclamation operations and all exploration operations on non-Federal and non-Indian lands. Beginning on July 11, 1985, the Department of Energy was deemed the regulatory authority pursuant to the program transfer provisions of Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 1850, as signed by the Governor of West Virginia on May 3, 1985. Beginning on October 16, 1991, the Division of Environmental Protection was deemed the regulatory authority pursuant to Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 217 that was signed by the Governor on October 25, 1991. On December 3, 1991, OSM found that it was not necessary to amend the State program to effect the redesignation of the regulatory authority from the Division of Energy to the Division of Environmental Protection (58 FR 42904, August 12, 1993). Beginning on April 14, 2001, the Department of Environmental Protection was deemed the regulatory authority pursuant to Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2218. The bill, which was signed by the Governor on April 30, 2001, transferred programs and redesignated the Division of Environmental Protection as the Department of Environmental Protection within the executive branch. Copies of the conditionally approved program, as amended, are available at:

- (a) Office of Surface Mining, Charleston Field Office, 1027 Virginia Street East, Charleston, West Virginia 25301–2816. Telephone: (304) 347–7158.
- (b) West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Mining and Reclamation, 10 McJunkin Road, Nitro, West Virginia 25143–2506. Telephone: (304) 759–0510.

[66 FR 67453, Dec. 28, 2001]

§948.12 State statutory, regulatory, and proposed program amendment provisions not approved.

- (a) We are not approving the following provisions of the proposed program amendment that West Virginia submitted on May 11, 1998:
- (1) CSR 38-2-3.14, to the extent that it could be interpreted as applying to the on-site reprocessing of abandoned coal mine waste piles or to the extent that it would apply to the removal of abandoned coal refuse piles where, on average, the material to be removed meets the definition of coal in 30 CFR 700.5.
- (2) CSR 38-2-3.32.g., which concerns unanticipated events or conditions.
- (3) CSR 38-2-14.14.a.1., which concerns placement of excess spoil outside the permit area.
- (4) CSR 38-2-23, which concerns coal extraction as part of land development activities.
- (5) CSR 38-2-24.4, which concerns water quality standards for bond release.
- (b) We are not approving the following provisions of the proposed program amendment that West Virginia submitted on March 14, 2000, March 28, 2000, and April 6, 2000:
- (1) The proviso at W.Va. Code 22–3–23(c)(2)(C) which concerns Phase III bond release where the quality of the untreated postmining water discharged is better than or equal to the premining water quality discharged from the mining site.
- (2) At CSR 38-2-7.4.b.1.C.5., the phrase, "except for ponds and impoundments located below the valley fills."
- (3) At CSR 38–2–7.4.b.1.D.2, the phrase, "except for those areas with a slope of at least 50%."
- (4) At CSR 38–2–7.4.b.1.G.1., the word "excessive."
- (5) At CSR 38-2-7.4.b.1.I., the new stocking standards for commercial forestry and forestry.
- (6) At CSR 38-2-7.4.b.1.I.2., the phrase, "where there is potential for excessive erosion on slopes greater than 20%."
- (7) At CSR 38-2-7.4.b.1.I.2., the words "rock cover."
- (8) At CSR 38-2-7.4.b.1.I.3., the phrase "or, if a commercial forestry mitigation plan is submitted to the Director, and approved and completed."